

# (12) United States Patent Ruffa

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# (54) ACOUSTIC FUEL SHUTOFF

(75) Inventor: Anthony A. Ruffa, Hope Valley, RI

(73) Assignee: The United States of America as

represented by the Secretary of the

Navy, Washington, DC (US)

Notice:

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..... B65B 1/04 (51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> .....

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141/392, 301, 192

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Primary Examiner-Steven O. Douglas

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm-James M. Kasischke;

Michael P. Stanley; Michael F. Oglo

### **ABSTRACT**

A system for preventing overflow from a tank being filled. An open-ended elongated adapted for fixture to a tank extends from an opening of the tank and proximate to a bottom of the tank. A nozzle connectable to a source of pressurized liquid has an open end extension extending through the opening into the elongated tube. The nozzle creates broadband acoustic signals inside of the elongated tube during filling. A microphone mounted on the nozzle near the open end extension senses resonant frequency signals of the acoustic signals and generates representative signals. A module processes the representative signals and generates a closing signal when the representative signals represent a critical resonant frequency. A shut-off valve between the fuel source and the nozzle is responsive to the closing signal.

## 15 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

